

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /057 W

-----100950Z 121320 /20

P R 100840Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

SECSTATE WASHDC 6888

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, SN

SUBJECT: LEE KUAN YEW TO VISIT PHILIPPINES

REF: MANILA 0306

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. PLANNED VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW TO THE PHILIPPINES WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOS ON JANUARY 8 AND GIVEN CURSORY TREATMENT IN SUNDAY TIMES ON SUBSEQUENT DAY. ACCORDING TO GOS STATEMENT, LEE'S "UNOFFICIAL VISIT" WILL SPAN JANUARY 14-18 PERIOD AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION, INCLUDING GREATER COOPERATION WITHIN ASEAN, AND ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. LEE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM, MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LIM KIM SAN, MINISTER FOR FINANCE HON SUI SEN, AND "SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE".

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2. THE SIZE AND THE LEVEL OF LEE'S PARTY MAKE CLEAR THAT A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES IS LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED NEXT WEEK. IN THE ABSENCE OF PRESSING BILATERAL PROBLEMS (AT LEAST WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY), WE ASSUME THAT GOS OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING LEE WILL ENGAGE THEIR FILIPINIO COUNTERPARTS PRIMARILY IN DISCUSSIONS

OF ASEAN MATTERS. LIM KIM SAN, BY REPUTATION A GOLF FANATIC, MAY FIND TIME FOR SOME BUSINESS, BUT PRIME MINISTER'S NEED FOR A LINKS COMPANION PROBABLY EXPLAINS HIS INCLUSION IN PARTY.

3. TRIP WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT BE ENTIRELY A VACATION AS DESCRIBED BY AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN'S SINGAPORE COLLEAGUE; NEITHER IS IT LIKELY TO BE ENTIRELY THE WORKING VISIT WHICH GOS STATEMENT WOULD TEND TO INDICATE IT IS. THE MEETING WITH MARCOS WILL COMPLETE LEE'S MOST RECENT ROUND OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH ASEAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT WHICH BEGAN IN NOVEMBER WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND CONTINUED IN DECEMBER WITH PRIME MINISTERS HUSSEIN ONN AND THANIN. LEE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY USE OCCASION OF TALKS WITH MARCOS TO REVIEW RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BROAD STRATEGIC TERMS. HOWEVER, LEE WILL PROBABLY LEAVE NITTY-GRITTY OF ASEAN AFFAIRS TO HIS OFFICIAL TRAVELING COMPANIES.

4. UPPERMOST IN LEE'S MIND WILL BE HIS CONVICTION THAT ASEAN NEEDS TO MOVE AHEAD MEANINGFULLY IN AREA OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THAT THE U.S. MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE REGION. INDEED, LEE'S LINE WITH MARCOS IS LIKELY TO BE VERY CLOSE TO ONE HE REPORTEDLY RECENTLY EMPLOYED WITH HUSSEIN ONN (KUALA LUMPUR 7522). ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT LEE WAS SAID TO HAVE THEN PUSHED FOR ASEAN-US ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS TO COUNTER POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO RESTRICT THE FLOW OF U.S. FOREIGN INVESTMENT. WHILE GOS IS CLEARLY IN FOREFRONT OF THOSE WHO FAVOR EARLY ASEAN-USG  
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CONSULTATIONS, WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO INDICATION THAT SINGAPORE HOLDS GOP RESPONSIBLE FOR SLOW MOVEMENT IN THIS AREA (REFTEL).

5. IN THE POLITICO-MILITARY FIELD, LEE WILL PROBABLY UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING U.S. MILITARY IN THE REGION FOR APPROPRIATE GREAT POWER BALANCE. WE BELIEVE HE WILL CAUTION MARCOS NOT TO PUSH THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION TOO HARD ON THE BASES ISSUE. THE LOSS OF CLARK AND SUBIC TO THE U.S. WOULD, OF COURSE, DIRECTLY AFFECT THE U.S. MILITARY PROFILE IN THE REGION AND THE GREAT POWER BALANCE. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD MAKE MORE CONSPICUOUS -- AND HENCE MORE DIFFICULT FOR LEE - THE U.S. MILITARY USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES. WE BELIEVE IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT LEE WOULD BE THE ONE TO RAISE SAF-A-4 TRAINING AT CLARK FIELD (REFTEL). THIS STILL PENDING ISSUE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO THE GOS SINCE IT RECOGNIZES THAT IT CANNOT BE SETTLED UNTIL THE BROADER QUESTION OF U.S. BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES IS RESOLVED.  
HOLDRIDGE

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## Message Attributes

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